

1 AN ACT concerning schools.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Department of Commerce and Economic
5 Opportunity Law of the Civil Administrative Code of Illinois is
6 amended by adding Section 605-333 as follows:

7 (20 ILCS 605/605-333 new)

8 Sec. 605-333. School Wind and Solar Generation Program.

9 (a) There is created the School Wind and Solar Generation
10 Program to fund wind generation projects and solar generation
11 projects for school districts and community college districts.
12 The Department shall implement and administer this program.
13 Under the program, the Department shall provide to school
14 districts and community college districts that apply, full or
15 partial low-interest loans for, without limitation,
16 engineering studies, feasibility studies, research studies,
17 and construction costs for wind generation projects and solar
18 generation projects. The loan funds, subject to appropriation,
19 shall be paid out of the School Wind and Solar Generation
20 Revolving Loan Fund. All repayments of loans shall be deposited
21 into the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund.

22 (b) The Department shall make available information
23 regarding the School Wind and Solar Generation Program to all

1 school districts and community college districts in this State.

2 (c) Receiving a loan under this Section does not disqualify
3 a district from being eligible for other Department funding
4 programs regarding energy.

5 (d) For each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014, the
6 State Comptroller may order transferred and the State Treasurer
7 may transfer \$5,000,000 from the General Revenue Fund and other
8 State funds to the School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving
9 Loan Fund. The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan
10 Fund is created as a special fund in the State treasury. The
11 School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund shall
12 consist of any moneys transferred or appropriated into the
13 School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund, as well
14 as all repayments of loans made under the School Wind and Solar
15 Generation Program. All interest earned on moneys in the School
16 Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund shall be
17 deposited into the Fund. All money in the School Wind and Solar
18 Generation Revolving Loan Fund must be used, subject to
19 appropriation, by the Department for the purposes of this
20 Section. The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan
21 Fund shall not be subject to sweeps, administrative charges or
22 chargebacks or any other fiscal or budgetary maneuver that
23 would in any way result in the transfer of any funds from the
24 School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving Loan Fund to any
25 other fund of the State or having any such funds utilized for
26 any purpose other than for the purposes of this Section.

1 (e) The Department may accept additional funding for the
2 School Wind and Solar Generation Program from the federal
3 government and private donations.

4 (f) The Department may adopt any rules necessary to
5 implement this Section.

6 Section 7. The Renewable Energy, Energy Efficiency, and
7 Coal Resources Development Law of 1997 is amended by changing
8 Section 6-5.5 as follows:

9 (20 ILCS 687/6-5.5)

10 (Section scheduled to be repealed on December 12, 2015)

11 Sec. 6-5.5. Renewable energy grants.

12 (a) Subject to appropriation, the Department may establish
13 and operate a renewable energy grant program to assist public
14 schools and community colleges with engineering studies and
15 feasibility studies and ~~school districts~~ in the installation,
16 acquisition, construction, and improvement of renewable energy
17 resources ~~in the public schools~~, including without limitation
18 solar energy (such as solar panels), geothermal energy, and
19 wind energy.

20 (b) Application for a grant under this Section must be in
21 the form and manner established by the Department. ~~The grant~~
22 ~~shall cover 50% of the cost for which the grant is sought, up~~
23 ~~to a maximum grant of \$1,000,000, if the applicant school~~
24 ~~district is able to demonstrate that it has funds to pay the~~

1 ~~either 50% of the cost.~~ The schools and community colleges
2 ~~school district~~ may accept private funds for their ~~its~~ portion
3 of the cost.

4 (c) The Department may adopt any rules that are necessary
5 to carry out its responsibilities under this Section.

6 (Source: P.A. 95-46, eff. 8-10-07.)

7 Section 10. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
8 Section 5.719 as follows:

9 (30 ILCS 105/5.719 new)

10 Sec. 5.719. The School Wind and Solar Generation Revolving
11 Loan Fund.

12 Section 15. The School Code is amended by changing Sections
13 10-20.42 and 34-18.36 as follows:

14 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.42)

15 Sec. 10-20.42. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. A school
16 district may own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine
17 farm, either individually or jointly with a unit of local
18 government, school district, or community college district
19 that is authorized to own and operate a wind or solar
20 generation turbine farm, that directly or indirectly reduces
21 the energy or other operating costs of the school district. The
22 school district may ask for the assistance of any State agency,

1 including without limitation the State Board of Education, the
2 Illinois Power Agency, or the Environmental Protection Agency,
3 in obtaining financing options for a wind or solar generation
4 turbine farm.

5 (Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08;
6 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

7 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.36)

8 Sec. 34-18.36. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. The school
9 district may own and operate a wind or solar generation turbine
10 farm, either individually or jointly with a unit of local
11 government, school district, or community college district
12 that is authorized to own and operate a wind or solar
13 generation turbine farm, that directly or indirectly reduces
14 the energy or other operating costs of the school district. The
15 school district may ask for the assistance of any State agency,
16 including without limitation the State Board of Education, the
17 Illinois Power Agency, or the Environmental Protection Agency,
18 in obtaining financing options for a wind or solar generation
19 turbine farm.

20 (Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08;
21 95-876, eff. 8-21-08.)

22 Section 20. The Public Community College Act is amended by
23 changing Section 3-42.3 as follows:

1 (110 ILCS 805/3-42.3)

2 Sec. 3-42.3. Wind and solar farms ~~farm~~. To own and operate
3 a wind or solar generation turbine farm, either individually or
4 jointly with a unit of local government, school district, or
5 community college district that is authorized to own and
6 operate a wind or solar generation turbine farm, that directly
7 or indirectly reduces the energy or other operating costs of
8 the community college district. The board may ask for the
9 assistance of any State agency, including without limitation
10 the State Board, the Illinois Power Agency, or the
11 Environmental Protection Agency, in obtaining financing
12 options for a wind or solar generation turbine farm.

13 (Source: P.A. 95-390, eff. 8-23-07; 95-805, eff. 8-12-08.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.